RELATIVITY THEORY CONFIRMED

Most Accurate Test Ever Made Confirms Limitations

PETROL WARNING TO ALL HOUSEWIVES

By completing what is probably the most accurate experiment ever carried out, British scientists have confirmed the general theory of relativity.

Attaining an accuracy within a few parts of a hundred thousand millions, they proved that it is not possible by physical measurement to detect the motion of the earth through the ether of space.

The test, which is described in the 1936 report of the National Physical Laboratory consisted of comparing the period of vibration of a quartz rod maintained under constant conditions with a similar oscillator placed successively in a series of different positions so that its axis was rotated through 360 degrees.

The report also describes how the Laboratory is assisting British industry and states that a record was set up in the number of ship designs tested.

Of the 1,180,000 tons of merchant shipping, the construction of which was begun in Great Britain in 1936, no fewer than 920,000 tons, or 78 per cent., was based on the Laboratory experiments.

The 88 designs tested included fourteen for foreign builders and owners. Important improvements were made in 48 cases, and the efficiency of four ships was increased by more than 10 per cent.

Tests showed that no material advantage was to be derived by departing from the normal hull form, and extreme flare on the bow, or extremely narrow bows, gave on the whole rather worse results.

Aircraft Tests

Fourteen designs of new aircraft were examined in the wind tunnels, compared with three in 1935.

Eight and a half grammes of radium in some 1,100 containers was measured during the year. Since the beginning of this work 130 grammes, valued at £1,000,000, have been tested by the Laboratory. This is one-fifth of the world's estimated supply.

It is not always realized, states the report, that danger exists when using petrol or benzine for removing grease marks from clothing, even though there is no naked flame to start a fire.

These liquids are able to generate electric sparks by friction, and the rubbing of any fabric in a dish of petrol may produce a spark which will explode the petrol vapour and start a serious fire.

WORRY REMOVED BY OPERATION

Parts of Human Brain Disconnected

Among the scientific exhibits displayed at the annual meeting of the American Medical Association at Atlantic City, New Jersey reports the "Morning Post," is a startling new "psycho-surgery" which literally slices off parts of the brain addicted to worry and too much imagination, and leaves the patient slightly less responsive intellectually, but comparatively free from his former worries and hallucinations.

The same operation turned at will pugnacious monkeys into tame affectionate beasts, according to Dr. Walter Freeman, of Washington.

The new "soul surgery" was announced originally last year in a French journal by Dr. Egas Moniz, of Lisbon, and the results appeared to be so remarkable that the technique has now been tried in the United States in cases where all other forms of treatment have failed. It was applied to 21 mentally ill persons; 15 per cent. appear "greatly improved" and 50 per cent. "moderately improved" with one death due to the operation.

The Operation

The surgery, which is practically bloodless, is sometimes performed under a local anæsthetic. A small needle-like instrument is inserted in the brain through two small holes in the skull. Near the bottom of the instrument is a wire loop that can be expanded and rotated. As it is turned it disconnects the spherical section of the brain from the remainder of the brain in deep white matter layers.

This is performed three times on each side of the brain, resulting in the reduction of the connections between various parts of the brain but not affecting the sensory or motor areas.

Brain specialists call the area where the tissues are disconnected the "silent area," because it is the section where the "intellectuals" are carried on.

The dense structure of the nerve fibres connect this area with the sensory areas on the outer surface of the cerebral hemispheres, and it is in this area, where all the sense areas are inter-connected, that imagination develops out of the synthesis of impressions which reach the brain.

By cutting many of these links imagination is reduced. Dr. Freeman pointing out that many mental ills are due to excessive drives moving through the links.

Types of the cases for which the operation has been performed include agitated depression, involuted depression, schizophrenia, manic depression, hysteria, and psycho-neurosis. The slower mental processes do not appear to bother patients because they are no longer annoyed by inability to perform tasks at higher speeds, and thus they have lost their sense of frustration.

The twelve little spheres in the white matter of the brain, each half an inch in diameter, which are cut remain in the skull and eventually are reabsorbed, leaving a scar in the tissue.

The Grand Cross of the Order of the German Eagle was awarded to a number of Italians on Tuesday by Chancellor Hitler for services in furthering the Italo-German relations. Those honoured include Marshal Badoglio and Generals Pariani and Valle, Admiral Cavagnari, Signor Volpi and Signor Ricci. The Service Cross of the Order of the German Eagle with Star were presented to Gen. Villa Santa and Signors Corni, Pirelli and Cianetti.

CROONING CREATES CRISIS IN B.B.C.

How Often Shall It Be Tolerated?

Crooning, at once the horror and delight of millions, has precipitated a crisis in the light entertainment world.

Music publishers, dance band leaders, B.B.C. officials, radio listeners, and, above all, crooners, are in a state of ferment. The point at issue, which is far from being as simple as it might appear, is: How often shall the crooner be allowed to dominate the microphone in proportion to the number of tunes broadcast by his orchestra?

An attempt to satisfy all parties is to be made at Broadcasting House recently, when Mr. C. G. Graves, B.B.C. Programme Controller, and Sir Stephen Tallents, Controller of Public Relations, hold an informal meeting with Mr. Bruce Sievier and fellow members of the British Composers' and Songwriters Association.

One in Three

The dispute followed an edict issued by the Corporation to the effect that "as from to-day dance band leaders have been instructed to limit the number of vocal numbers broadcast by them to one in three."

Protestations were immediate—and however, publishers complained that their sales of sheet music dropped because, not hearing the words of the songs, people did not know what to ask for in the shops. British song writers complained that band leaders, allowed a quota of approximately seven vocal numbers per hour, chose for these American tunes, British songs being broadcast without words. And crooners, naturally, complained. They said that the new rule brought them less into prominence, and that they were losing engagements.

Faced with this chorus of protest the B.B.C. quietly and politely, went its own way.

In the words of an official, expressed to a "Morning Post" representative:

"We felt that vocal numbers in dance band programmes were being overdone. Our policy in dance band matters, however, has never been inflexible, and we are always making changes and experiments."

THE WEATHER 4,000 YEARS AGO

Sorcerer's Storms and Tempests

"B.C. (? 1029)—Twanthy de Danan, king of Ireland, used sorcery, and thereby did procure such tempest, stormes, and continuall contrary winds that Divers of the principle of them (the eight sons of Gallo) were lost & Drowned."

This is one of the entries in an Air Ministry publication, about which a Parliamentary question has been asked, says the "Morning Post."

Another entry informs the curious that in A.D. 878, "it rained a shower of blood which was found in lumps of gore and blood on the plains of Connaught, at Dumha-na-n-Deisi especially"; and that on June 7, A.D. 1104, "there appeared four circles about the sun at mid-day, of a white hue, each twined about the other."

The work in question is "Geophysical Memoir No. 70. A Meteorological Chronology to A.D. 1450." It begins at 2668 B.C. (with the Irish chronicles), is compiled by Mr. C. E. Britton, of the Meteorological Office, and contains a complete list of all traceable weather dates within the period covered, together with the authorities from which they are quoted.

Sir Philip Sassoon was asked by Sir Arnold Wilson whether this work served a useful scientific purpose, and in a written answer the Under Secretary for Air says: "The memoir was submitted in manuscript to the Meteorological Committee, who recommended its publication on the ground that the information collected by the author is valuable for the study of changes of climate."

The sum expended on publication was approximately £212. No other expense was incurred, as preparation of the material was undertaken by the author in his own time.

An official of the Air Ministry pointed out to a representative of the "Morning Post" that old weather records had proved their service in working out the Bruckner 35-years' weather cycle; and added that such information had also its value as showing the climatic background both of historical events and of price changes.

FIVE COUNTRIES HOLD "DUCK" CONFERENCE

Ornithologists Worried Over Scarcity of Wild Fowl

Scarcity of wild ducks and wild geese has brought expert ornithologists from five countries into action, and a sub-committee of the International Committee for the Preservation of Wild Birds recently concluded a two-day conference in Brussels, reports the "News Chronicle."

Representatives from Great Britain, France, Poland and Germany have been trying to find out something about these birds.

Although all countries have agreed on their scarcity, their approximate decrease is unknown, as is the longest distance they can cover in flight.

Like flies, they raise the question—where do they go to in the winter-time?

Found in Russia

"A wild duck bearing a British identification ring was found in Russia not long ago." Miss Barclay-Smith, secretary of the British branch and sub-secretary of the International Committee said on her return from Brussels.

These proposals will be made at the July meeting: The absolute protection of very rare birds and their eggs; the protection of migratory birds during the nesting season and during their migration in the spring; and the possibility of extending the close season.

Though all the reasons for the birds' decrease are unknown, the diminution of one of the weeds upon which they live, known as the zostera marina, has a lot to do with it.

THE KING AT THE TROOPING OF THE COLOUR

The King photographed riding to the Horse Guards Parade for the ceremony of Trooping of the Colour for His Majesty's birthday celebration on June 9.

DEVON'S CLIFFS A RADIUM STORE?

Nodules Found to Contain Parent Substance

The red cliffs of Budleigh Salterton, Devon, may provide a new source of radium.

White nodules, suggestive in appearance of a fungoid growth, which have been found in the cliffs by Mr. G. E. L. Carter, a retired Indian Civil Servant, have been pronounced by the Crystallography Laboratory, Cambridge, to contain uranium. This is the parent substance of all radio-active materials of the radium family.

Owing to the fact that radium is naturally formed by the breakdown of uranium, the normal supposition is that any rock which contains uranium also contains radium.

These new radio-active nodules were exhibited for the first time at a conversazione held by the Royal Society at Burlington House, London, recently. They are believed to date from the time when dinosaurs and other prehistoric monsters were reaching the end of their supremacy on earth.

Difficulty of Access

The presence of another rare chemical element, vanadium, in the nodules may, it is suggested, be connected with the power possessed by certain primitive fish to concentrate this element in their bodies. Since vanadium has a chemical attraction for uranium, this theory would also account for the radio-active quality of the nodules.

The reason that the nodules have not been discovered before is, it is suggested, that the base of the cliff at this point—for some distance west of Budleigh Salterton—is unusually difficult walking. Even the Geological Survey, it is understood, had been content to examine this stretch of cliff from the top. There had been no previous reason to suspect that there was anything unusual about it.

Another remarkable discovery was exhibited by the Jealotts Hill Agricultural Research Station of Imperial Chemical Industries. This is the fact that a chemical, known as indolyl acetic acid, which has the power of promoting plant growth, particularly stimulates the production of root growth in cuttings.

BRITISH ARMY DROPS USE OF SHRAPNEL

Shrapnel, which was the only projectile of the British field-gun up to the end of 1914, is to be discarded. Its place will be taken by high explosive and smoke shell.

This decision has been reached to meet changed and changing conditions. Shrapnel was intended for troops in the open and both time and percussion fuses were used.

For a "time" shell to be really effective it had to burst at the right distance and height and so produce a sufficiently dense cone of destructive particles. Otherwise it was better to burst the shell on impact so as to produce a powerful, although local, effect.

Now the Army, to a great extent, has reverted to armour and there are fewer targets for shrapnel.

Artillery experts have advocated the change for years.

MOTORIST "LIKE A WILD BEAST"

Judge Says Jury Took Very Merciful View

"You were little more than a wild beast on the road. The public must be protected from people of your sort who drive motors in such a reckless manner."

Mr. Justice Charles thus addressed John Lindsay Parkinson, aged 32, a civil engineer, of Burgh-lane, Chorley, Lancashire, a son of the late Sir Lindsay Parkinson, who was found guilty at Liverpool Assizes of dangerous driving, but not guilty of the manslaughter of Margaret Traynor, aged 20, of Burns Street, Bootle.

He said that the jury had taken an extraordinarily merciful view for some reason best known to themselves, as it was one of the worst cases he could conceive, and the jury were very well entitled to find Parkinson guilty of manslaughter.

Parkinson was sentenced to 12 months in the second division and disqualified for 15 years.

Miss Traynor was a member of a coach party travelling from Liverpool in Rainford on Easter Saturday. The coach stopped at Knowsley for passengers to "stretch their legs," and it was alleged that Parkinson's car came "like an express train" and killed the girl while she was walking arm-in-arm with another young woman across the road.

Parkinson's uncle, Mr. William Parkinson, chairman of Sir Lindsay Parkinson, Ltd., said that the accused man was employed at the new munitions factory at Chorley and would shortly have about 2,000 men under him. It was hoped that he would take over the position held by his father.

SEARCH FOR GOLD IN THE THAMES

Divers Vainly Try to Find Missing Sovereigns

Divers searched the bed of the Thames off Gravesend in vain recently for a package containing 1,400 gold sovereigns.

It was reported that the gold was lost while being transhipped from a Greek steamer in the middle of the night.

About 5,000 sovereigns were being brought to London as part payment for a steamer being purchased by a Near East firm. An agent awaited the ship at Gravesend, and had a taxi-cab ready to take the money and valuable securities to London.

The agent, it is stated, hired a Gravesend waterman to bring the packages ashore, and they were landed at the New Bridge and placed in the taxi.

When the money was counted in London it was discovered that a package containing 1,400 sovereigns was missing.

The loss was reported to the police and a wide search was made along the river front without success.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS

Warning of Subtle Danger of Regulations

Dangers threatening the liberty of the Press were mentioned by Mr. J. A. Spender in an address to the Empire Press Union, at the closing session of the annual conference recently in London under the presidency of Major the Hon J. J. Astor.

He reviewed the position in Europe, and commented: "If I were a German, a Russian or an Italian and were asked what was the status of the journalist, I should have to answer that he had no status at all; and might consider himself lucky if he were not in prison or a concentration camp."

"I do not think that in this country we have to fear any frontal attack on the liberties of the Press," Mr. Spender continued. "The danger is the much more subtle one, that regulations of various kinds may be multiplied until in the aggregate they become a menace to liberty. Here we need to beware lest we give handles to our enemies.

"The indignation expressed at the intrusions on privacy, practised by a small section of the Press is, I believe, thoroughly will justified, but I view with misgiving the demand for legislation to deal with this abuse. To draw up a rule which would bar this offence, and yet not lend itself to the curtailment of their legitimate liberties would be extremely difficult.

Need for Discipline

"In all practices of this kind and any others which fly in the face of the general opinion of what is seemly, the profession must discipline itself if it is to be safe from official censorship.

"I rejoice to see signs that our profession organizations are bestirring themselves, and I hope that between them they will be able, as other professions do, to maintain a standard of professional conduct which will be proof against all temptations to transgress."

The responsibility of the Press, concluded Mr. Spender, was never greater than it was to-day in the countries in which it remained free. If we held our ground in the British Commonwealth, we should help others to recover what they had lost; if we failed we should bring destruction on many besides ourselves.

Sir Stanley Reed, "Times of India," declared that he would welcome a bill in Parliament to define the status of a journalists. The whole future status of the journalist depended on the proprietory element which would see that no journalist was asked to undertake a duty unworthy of his profession, or which brought his profession into contempt.

Sir Harry Britain said the complaint of intrusions on privacy was directed against a section of the Press only, but unfortunately, its action had tarred the whole of the Press. A scheme should be framed to blacklist papers which went in for "private lives" news. "From what I am told by an old friend in the House of Commons, we had better do it ourselves before it is forced upon us from outside," he added.

Mr. Alan Pitt Robbins, Parliamentary Correspondent of "The Times," stated that the feeling in the House of Commons at the moment was extremely hostile to the Press as a whole because of the delinquencies of a very few people.

On the motion of Sir Stanley Reed, a resolution was carried requesting the Council of the Empire Press Union to take Mr. Spender's speeh into its special consideration, to take any steps which it might deem necessary to raise the status of the journalists of the Empire.

MAROONED 5 DAYS IN ANTARCTIC

Six Men's Story of Southern "Sinister Bluff"

MEALS OF STEWED SEAL: STARVATION DIET

Admiralty charts of the Antarctic may soon bear a new name. It will be "Sinister Bluff," the name given to a tide-swept rocky inlet by six men who lived there for five days under an overturned dinghy with temperature far below freezing point.

These six men were among the 50 scientists and explorers who arrived at Plymouth in the Royal research vessel Discovery II., after 18 months' exploration and research work in South Polar regions. The story of their escape was told for the first time when they landed.

Early this year they were sent from Discovery II. to take observations on King George Island. When the ship returned to take them off eight days later they had disappeared, their base camp had been destroyed and such records as could be found indicated that they had set off in a motor boat intending to return after a few hours.

H.M.S. Ajax, the 6,840-ton cruiser from the America and West Indies Station, and other vessels were summoned by wireless to join in the search, but another four days elapsed before the missing men were found. Most of them were suffering from frostbite.

All of the party had lost so much weight through a starvation diet that they had been reduced almost to skeletons.

The tale of their privations began when the engine of their motor boat broke down. For five days they drifted among great icebergs which threatened to smash their frail craft to matchwood.

Once they were swept by a gale to within a few yards of the uncharted, rugged coast. Then suddenly their engine restarted and they were able to move off the shore, but by that time food and water had been exhausted, their boat was leaking and they had to take to their 14ft dinghy and land on a tide-swept shore.

For five days they lived under their dinghy. It was so cold that they huddled together in one sleeping bag for warmth. For food they relied on seals and penguins, which they had to kill with pocket-knives, since they had no firearms. For cooking and heating they had a fire of blubber.

Once the marooned men saw the Discovery a few miles off the shore; but their distress signals were blown down by a blizzard. They erected a huge bonfire, but this was extinguished by snow.

On board the Discovery are millions of specimens of sea life, many of which have never been seen before.

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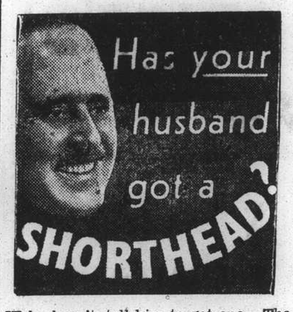

IF he hasn't, tell him to get one. The Tek Shorthead is *cut to measure and cut to clean.* The springy bristles of the shorthead are shaped to fit the inside arch of the teeth exactly. They clean every single crevice *from behind,* and remove the tartar and tobacco stains which ordinary toothbrushes miss.
The Tek design was approved by 96% of the dentists to whom it was sent. There's nothing 'just as good' as Tek. Tek is registered—legally protected from imitation. To clean your teeth *from behind* as well as in front, you need Tek, the original shorthead toothbrush.
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